

they not controlled by the effects of marriage.  
 From one point of view as we have seen sexual generation may be regarded as a cause of change since it results in the production of individuals that differ from their predecessors exactly resembling neither of their parents. But from another point of view it is a conservative influence since its effect is so to speak to dilute any peculiarities possessed by either parent and by intermixture to produce offspring that diverge less markedly from an average type. This tendency has been formulated as the law of "filial regression." Tallness in the father will be represented in his sons but in a less degree. Galton found that in the families of 286 judges who sat on the bench between 1660 and 1865. 12.6 per cent of their sons. 8.7 per cent of their grandsons. and only 0.5 per cent of their great-grandsons. Their talents fell rapidly to the normal in their offspring. So also children tend towards the normal when their parents are defective. It has been shown by a large body of statistics that parents who are both congenitally deaf may expect three out of four of their children to be free from this defect. and when only one parent is deaf the chance of deafness amongst the children is only one in eight. The levelling effect of marriage is no doubt due very largely to the fact that the sexes

are not systematically mated so as to bring together males and females that agree in possessing some definite peculiarity. By selective breeding on these lines an immense variety has been produced amongst cultivated plants and domesticated animals. But if selection is relaxed, reversion to type follows. And under normal conditions, whether of men or the lower animals, there would be very little chance that pairing would occur between two